

## NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
PROPRIETOR.

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VOLUME XL.....NO. 43

## AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

**WOODS MUSEUM.**  
Broadway, corner Third Street.—DARKING DICK and THE LAST SHIP, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Matinee at 2 P. M.

**METROPOLITAN THEATRE.**  
No. 36 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

**NEW YORK STAGE THEATRE.**  
Broadway, near Fourth Street.—at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

**OLYMPIC THEATRE.**  
No. 36 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

**BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE.**  
COLONEL KING'S VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

**ROMAN HIPPODROME.**  
Twenty-ninth street and Fourth Avenue.—Afternoon and evening, at 2:30 P. M.

**STREET WALK.**  
Fourth street.—at 8 P. M. Bayard Taylor.

**THEATRE COMIQUE.**  
No. 316 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

**FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.**  
Twenty-ninth street and Broadway.—THE WIFE OF THE DAY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Lewis, Miss Davidson, Mrs. Gilbert.

**TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE.**  
No. 31 Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

**LYCEUM THEATRE.**  
Fourteenth street and Sixth Avenue.—THE NEW CAROLINA, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Miss MacGillivray.

**BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE.**  
West Twenty-third street and Sixth Avenue.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Dan Bryant.

**GERMANIA THEATRE.**  
Fourth street.—at 8 P. M. Miss May.

**ACADEMY OF MUSIC.**  
Irving place.—THE JALISSEAN, Miss Kallings.

**PARK THEATRE.**  
Broadway.—FRENCH OPERA HOUSE.—GIOFFRE-GIOFFRA, at 8 P. M. Miss Corbin.

**NIRLAK.**  
Broadway.—A MOTHER'S PRAYER, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Edwin F. Thorne.

**BOTHES THEATRE.**  
Corner of Twenty-third street and Sixth Avenue.—HENRY V., at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

**SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.**  
Broadway, corner of Twenty-ninth street.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

**ROBINSON HALL.**  
Sixteenth street.—NEGRO DULL CARE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. MacGillivray.

**ACADEMY OF DESIGN.**  
Corner of Twenty-third street and Sixth Avenue.—EXHIBITION OF WATER COLOR PAINTINGS. Open from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M., and from 6 P. M. to 10 P. M.

**GLOBE THEATRE.**  
Broadway.—VARIETY, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M.

**WALLACK'S THEATRE.**  
Broadway.—THE COLLEGE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Boncourt.

**BROOKLYN THEATRE.**  
Washington street.—AN YOUNG LIKE IT, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:30 P. M. Mrs. Roubey.

## WITH SUPPLEMENT.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1875.

From our reports this morning the probabilities are that the weather to-day will be clear and cold.

**WALL STREET YESTERDAY.**—Stocks were unsettled and depressed. Foreign exchange was likewise unsettled. Gold was firm at 114½. Money without new feature.

**THE ICE BLOCKADE** was so complete in the East River last night that after eleven o'clock the ferries ceased running, causing considerable inconvenience to the numerous travellers benighted in Gotham.

**A SENATOR FROM FLORIDA** was elected yesterday after a long and fatiguing contest. Mr. E. W. Jones, the successful candidate, is another accession to the democratic strength in the Senate. He succeeded Abijah Gilbert, a republican, who was born in Osego county, in this State, and removed to St. Augustine after the war for the health of his family. Mr. Jones has his reputation as a statesman yet to make.

**THE INTEROCEANIC SURVEY.**—The surveying parties sent by the United States government to report on the most practicable route for an interoceanic canal to unite the Atlantic and Pacific, have reached their destination and begun their labors. As will be seen by the interesting communications published in another column, a small party under the command of Lieutenant Collins will survey the Atrato route, while the main expedition makes the survey of the Panama route.

**THE FRENCH SENATE.**—There is yet hope for representative government in France. By a vote of the National Assembly it has been decided that the Senate shall be elected by the people. This means that France will not submit to the personal government of any man. The Senate will act as a constitutional check on the lower branch of the Legislature, and will exercise an authority equal to that given by the American constitution to our own Senate. It will be no longer a resting place for lackeys and pensioners, but the controlling and regulating power of the State. Under the Empire to be a Senator was a disgrace, but the best intellects of France will be proud to sit in the new body. From this new amendment constitutional government in France derives new guarantees. It is by no means improbable that under the new constitution the Republic may be definitely established. Freed from the danger of Communism and the scarcely less degrading rule of Napoleonism, France would soon recover her place among the first nations of Europe.

## The Wonderful Arkansas Message—What Does His Excellency Mean?

In the early days of the English Alliance with Louis Napoleon, when the strangeness of his conduct puzzled the English mind and filled it with uneasy misgivings, the laureate, Mr. Tennyson, published a little poem, of which we are able to recall these lines:—

It is true we have a faithful ally,  
But only the devil knows what he means.

A perplexity like that expressed by the English poet is felt by the republican party in relation to the unaccountable conduct of their "faithful ally," His Excellency. The parallel may not hold at all points, for, as somebody has quaintly said, comparisons do not go upon all fours. But there are some obvious points of resemblance. Ulysses Simpson Grant, like Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, had a sudden and surprising rise to political eminence, which belied every rational calculation which could have been founded on his previous condition. Ulysses, when he was a clerk in his father's tannery in Galena, had as little prospect of becoming President of the United States as Louis had of becoming Emperor of France when he was a State prisoner at Ham, or when he smuggled himself into Boulogne with his tame eagle. Ulysses, like Louis, is one of the most taciturn of men, the Sphinx of American as Louis was of French politics. In ambition the resemblance is as close as that between two peas from the same pod. In political connection His Excellency Ulysses has never been a member of the republican party, only its "ally," but whether a "faithful ally" in any other than that scornful, ironical sense in which the poet laureate employed this phrase, is a question on which republican opinions may perhaps differ. A nation goes abroad, and seeks an "ally" only when conscious that its separate strength is not equal to some emergency, and a political party goes outside of its own ranks to pick up a candidate only from similar motives of self-interest. An ally consults only his own interest, as the republican party has found to its cost. His Excellency is pursuing his ambitious views by methods which astound the other party to the alliance and cause true and tried republicans like Vice President Wilson to wring their hands in torturing amazement. His Excellency is not only a Sphinx, but a stupendous political puzzle, and "only the devil knows what he means."

His Excellency has cut loose, not only from consultations with the recognized and accredited republican leaders, but from the advice of his own Cabinet. When his creature, Belknap, telegraphed to New Orleans that "the President and all of us" warmly indorsed the wild utterances of General Sheridan, it afterward came to light that His Excellency alone had directed the approval, and that "all of us" were not consulted. And it now appears that the astounding Arkansas Message, which caused thoughtful republicans to "stare and gasp," was prepared and sent to the Senate without even consulting so abject and complying a Secretary as Belknap. His Excellency deigning to seek no other adviser than that paragon of probity and pink of statesmen, "Boss" Shepherd. It is no uncommon thing for people to ask advice when they only desire approbation, and as His Excellency knew precisely what he wanted he fitly took counsel of a man about whose complaisance there could be no doubt. Had he consulted Secretary Fish His Excellency would have encountered a strong remonstrance, for Mr. Fish has some of the attributes of a statesman. Had he consulted even Attorney General Williams he would have been bothered with pertinacious objections, for although Mr. Williams is ordinarily subservient enough he never could have consented to a Message which publicly repudiated the legal advice he gave last May, which the President made the basis of his Arkansas proclamation rejecting the claims of Brooks and declaring that Baxter was the lawful Governor of the State. Knowing the kind of advice he wanted His Excellency took nobody but "Boss" Shepherd into his confidence, and supported by so remarkable a statesman, he ventured on the most egregiously self-stultifying act ever perpetrated by a man in so exalted a station.

"Only the devil knows what he means;" and although we have a cable under the heaving Atlantic and one under the vexed waters of the Gulf, telegraphic communication has not yet been established with His Sooty Majesty's dominions, and we must substitute speculative conjecture for authentic intelligence. The most plausible hypothesis we are able to form is that His Excellency has been struck with the fitness of the advice tendered him by the HERALD, and that before taking the decisive step of resigning he wishes to create a unanimous public opinion in favor of our friendly advice. His Excellency's pride, perhaps, revolts at following the suggestion of a newspaper, however solicitous for his fame and devoted to his interests. He sees the propriety and feels the nobleness of such an act, but he is not quite willing to perform it until he makes sure of the indorsing acclamations of the whole body of his unanimous fellow citizens. Everybody will agree that he could not have done more to reconcile the country to our advice than His Excellency has succeeded in doing since it was respectfully tendered for his serene consideration. We have not yet written him a private note of thanks for his truly valuable co-operation, since we do not wish to lend countenance to any suspicion that there is a settled understanding between us. We solemnly aver, in spite of strong appearances to the contrary, that we had no previous consultation with His Excellency before advising him to resign, and all that he has since done to bring the country into our views has proceeded entirely from himself. We do not deny that we would have cheerfully consented to be His Excellency's organ in this matter if he had invited us; but if we had held that position and had played the part of a confidential organ in throwing out foreshadowing suggestions, with an assurance that his intended acts would justify them, we do not see how His Excellency could have more faithfully supported us. All of his noted public acts since we first proffered our friendly suggestion have been calculated to aid us in convincing the country that our advice is as reasonable as it is timely. Almost every day His Excellency adds some fresh proof to the growing accumulation in favor of his making way for the moderate and judicious republican statesman who would succeed him on his retirement, and who is said to "wing his

## hands" at His Excellency's deplorable blunders.

We venture to console Vice President Wilson by the suggestion that he has not penetrated the great political secret. The thought has not yet struck him that His Excellency is merely playing into the hands of the HERALD, and trying to aid it in convincing the country that it is expedient for the President to resign. Instead of wringing his hands over the doom which impends over the republican party in consequence of Grant's astounding escapades Mr. Wilson should "lift up his head and rejoice" at the evident intention of His Excellency to reconcile the country to his early retirement from office. If all the newspapers in the United States had persistently repeated the advice of the HERALD they could not have done so much to make the idea of resignation popular as His Excellency has accomplished by his strange and otherwise unaccountable course. It is, doubtless, wise and sagacious for a high public functionary to seek a strong public indorsement of his acts, and if His Excellency really intends to take our advice and resign he is evincing incomparable skill in the sure and effective methods he takes for precluding all differences of opinion as to the eminent propriety and public utility of the act. We tender His Excellency our respectful thanks for his efficient and sustained co-operation.

## Mr. Washburne's Denial.

We print elsewhere this morning a letter from the Hon. E. B. Washburne, our Minister in Paris, sent to us by cable, denying, in the fullest, frankest and most comprehensive manner, the story published in one of our contemporaries to the effect that he had received ten thousand dollars for his official influence in placing the bonds of Fremont's swindling Pacific Railway on the French Bourse. Mr. Washburne informs us that these bonds were placed on the Bourse a month before he arrived in Paris; that he exposed their fraudulent character and so reported to the government, and that for this he was denounced by General Fremont as a Minister discrediting American enterprise. Our own recollection of these circumstances certainly corroborates the letter of Mr. Washburne. We are glad the Minister so promptly destroys these aspersions upon his good name. The fame of Mr. Washburne is dear to us, at a time especially when there is so much scandal and looseness in public life. We have always honored and trusted him for his courage, his frankness, his patriotism and his Roman virtue in assailing corruption. This letter only justifies our trust, and it will be especially grateful to the American people.

## Mr. Wood's Speech on the Tax Bill.

Mr. Fernando Wood has made a strong speech, full of valuable statistics and information, on the new Tax bill now pending in the House. It is his opinion that an increase of taxes is quite unnecessary for meeting any real wants of the Treasury, and is especially inopportune at this time, when the business of the country should not be subjected to new burdens. One of the principal pleas for additional revenue is founded on the necessity for meeting the requirements of the sinking fund. Mr. Wood explodes that plea by showing that three successive Secretaries of the Treasury, beginning with Mr. Chase, made no provision for the sinking fund at all, and that Mr. Boutwell followed the precedent they set during the earlier part of his administration. Such provision may as properly be suspended now as at any former time. As soon as business revives there will be a surplus revenue under the existing tax law, and the sinking fund can be made good out of that surplus. The net ordinary expenses of the government, which were one hundred and fifty-three million dollars in 1872, were increased to one hundred and eighty millions in 1873 and to one hundred and ninety-four millions in 1874—an increase of thirty-one millions in two years. There is no great reason why they should be greater now than in 1872, and if they were reduced by wise economy to the same amount there would be no sort of necessity for imposing additional taxes. If the President desires to accumulate a fund for the military subjugation of the South his wish ought not to be gratified.

## The Rejected Louisiana Compromise.

Our New Orleans despatches this morning give the text of the proposal of compromise adopted by the conservative members of the Louisiana Legislature and presented to the committee of Congress just before their departure. As was stated in our despatches yesterday, Mr. Wheeler, the Chairman of the committee, telegraphed back from Mobile that the proposition was not accepted. The terms of the proposed compromise seem fair, conciliatory and moderate. The conservatives offered to leave Kellogg in the undisturbed possession of his office so long as he continued to be recognized by the President. They stipulated that all the conservative members of the Legislature who were really elected should be admitted to seats, and that the Assembly should then organize *de novo*. These are the main features of the offered compromise, which would have left the republicans in full possession of the fruits of the election of 1872, and have given the conservative the advantage they undoubtedly won in the election of 1874. It is to be deplored that this adjustment, founded on mutual concessions, and giving promise of tranquillity to distracted State, has been rejected by those who could have given it effect. As it is a cold wound remains open with no prospect that they can be healed within the ensuing two years.

**THE BEECHER TRIAL.**—The cross-examination of Mr. Tilton was continued yesterday. Mr. Everts devoted his attention to elucidating "the true story," about which so much natural curiosity is felt by the outside public. Mr. Everts conducted the examination with great skill, and by the time he has done he will be scarcely any further chance of a new statement. The matter will have been completely exhausted.

**PRESIDENT PARDO** has succeeded in routing completely the insurgents in the north of Peru. He has returned to Lima to resume his duties of Chief Magistrate. Brigades, taking advantage of the civil war, are operating near the capital, but we have no doubt the energetic President will deal promptly with these marauders now that his hands are free.

## Steam Lanes.

Some months since, especially during the excitement occasioned on the sinking of the Ville du Havre and other accidents to our large steamships, the HERALD drew attention to the necessity for adopting some special plan for marking the navigation of the ocean between Europe and America. One of the results of this discussion was to induce some of our principal lines to change their routes from a northerly course through the iceberg region to a southerly course, where ice is never seen. We believe this rule is now followed by the Cunard, Isman and German lines, but there should be more definite instructions. Our suggestion was that the ocean should be mapped out in a series of geographical lines, that the companies should decide upon one route, to be followed by all steamers going out; and another, to be followed by all steamers coming in; and we further suggested that this course should not be wider than twenty miles, and that some covenant or treaty, or, if necessary, a law, should be forced upon the companies, compelling them to send their steamers over the route thus specified. The practical effect of this arrangement would be that, with the number of steamers now crossing the ocean, they would be always in company. If an accident happened to one steamer there would be almost a certain chance that before any disastrous result she could attract the attention of another. So that, instead of sending our steamers out singly to wander over a forlorn ocean, they would go in convoys, thereby narrowing very much the chances of disaster. These suggestions, which were adopted at the time by some of the steamers, also attracted the attention of the American Social Science Association, which met in May, 1874. Professor Peirce, of Harvard, addressed that distinguished body on the subject, seeking to arouse public attention to the rapidly increasing perils and the magnitude of sea travelling. "For," as he well remarked, "when the number of steamers shall be tenfold what it is today, which will occur in the next generation, each steamer will be exposed to ten times the peril, and, as their number is tenfold increased, the number of collisions will be one hundred-fold their present number." In accordance with the suggestions of the Professor a committee was appointed, under the presidency of Mr. R. B. Forbes, of Boston, and composed of men like Charles H. Marshall, George W. Blunt, William B. Morgan, R. H. McCurdy and other eminent citizens of New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. The committee have considered the subject and agreed upon a report. In this report they discuss the routes proposed by Professor Maury, Mr. Wyman, Mr. Blunt and by the Isman, Cunard and German steamship lines. They object to Commodore Wyman's route because it approaches too near Cape Race. The Cunard route, which passes the meridian of 50, north of latitude 43, the committee regard as going too far south, cut of the most direct route, and too near to the route eastward. The plan suggested by Mr. Blunt is almost like that of Professor Maury. The committee think it would be better to make a compromise between the plans of Maury and Blunt on the one side and the Cunard route on the other. At the same time it very wisely says that it is of very little consequence which route is adopted, so long as the steamship companies determine upon one course and respect it. "So long," says the report, "as we avoid too near approach to the virgin rocks of Cape Race and Nantucket Shoals and keep our tracks to the west as practically as on our fishing grounds, it matters little which we adopt." It suggests that Congress should be asked to appoint a commissioner to proceed to Europe and endeavor to get the concurrent action of all steamship lines—a commissioner who could go with authority.

We agree with the committee that it is of very little consequence which route is accepted, so long as it is a definite route, and is accepted by all the lines as to the true path across the ocean. Furthermore, if the steamship companies do not yield to public opinion, and agree among themselves upon a matter which would redound to their own advantage, then Congress should endeavor to have the matter made a question of treaty and negotiation. The government of France, England, Germany and America have certainly the power to compel the steamers which sail under their flags, and which enjoy their protection, to take every measure to insure the safety of their passengers and cargo. We are glad that this subject has attracted the attention of so eminent a body as the Social Science Association, and we trust that Congress will attentively heed the recommendations of this committee.

## Winter Sports and Pleasures.

Although Lent has put the seal of prohibition upon feasting and merriment the balls and other enjoyments of the season are not yet ended. The fashionable people who always make the grand Charity Ball a sort of carnival preceding the season of fasting and self-denial this year made it gay and grander than ever before, and those who find no obstacles to enjoyment during the commemorative fast, from their religious convictions, disported themselves at the Liederkranz last night in all the fantastic glories of former years, making it, as it always has been, a great annual carnival. The Liederkranz, however, marks a pause in the splendors and festivities of the season, and we may now look back at what belongs to the past while we recount the enjoyments of the winter. It is seldom that the social season in this city was spent with less ostentation and yet with so much real pleasure as was the case this year, and many of the enjoyments which yet remain are not barred by the rules of any religious society. For instance, there is no prohibition to any of the outdoor exercises which form a feature in metropolitan enjoyments, and never before was there such superb skating as there has been this winter. It is true the thaw and rain of yesterday destroyed for a day or two the magnificent ice fields which were to be found everywhere in the neighborhood of the city; but the backbone of the winter is not yet broken, and we yet anticipate some splendid skating. For a week before the rain New York rivalled St. Petersburg in winter sports. With an atmosphere as crisp and clear as the ice itself an evening in the Park is a keener pleasure than the highest enjoyments of the ballroom, and it is the general hope of the young and joyous that the ice may be renewed, for the experience of the

past week has shown that the ball at the Terrace is a greater boon even than the grandest ball at the Academy.

## Champagne in Politics.

Our Albany festivities have reached a graceful climax. We read that the other evening there was a private dinner party at the mansion of a distinguished lady in Albany. Among the guests were Governor Tilden, Senator Kernan, ex-Governor Seymour, Lieutenant Governor Dorsheimer, Smith M. Weed, Joseph Warren, the great democratic editor of the western part of the State, and our illustrious and venerable townsman, Mr. William Cullen Bryant. "Mr. Bryant delivered a speech," says the writer, "closing with a toast, nominating Samuel J. Tilden as the next democratic candidate for President. This was drunk standing and with much enthusiasm. Governor Tilden responded, neither accepting nor declining the proffered honor, but holding himself subject to the call of his party." This graceful, poetic and enthusiastic tableau is a fitting culmination to the festivities of the past few days. Governor Tilden has paid Mr. Bryant the greatest honor in his power. He has summoned him to Albany; he has made him the guest of the Executive Mansion; he has bidden the honored, the learned, the wealthy and the beautiful to come and do him homage. He has been publicly welcomed by the Senate and the House. The honors that were showered on the gray hairs of Voltaire have been repeated upon Mr. Bryant, but we trust that, unlike Voltaire, he will not be smothered in the roses.

This was an historical tableau. There was Senator Kernan, fresh from the honors of victory in the Senatorial contest; Governor Seymour, like Cincinnatus, returned from his farm, to do honor to the poet of the Republic; Governor Tilden, now on the ascending wave of political power and prosperity; Mr. Dorsheimer, who is believed to be by some of our correspondents the coming De Witt Clinton of New York, and who probably stood in awe of the greatness which surrounded him. There was Mr. Bryant, who began writing poems when Jefferson was President, and now, fifty years after, is in the active pursuits of a vigorous manhood. What more graceful than that Mr. Bryant should nominate Governor Tilden for President, and what spectacle more beautiful than Governor Tilden standing, like a coy maiden, covered with blushes, "neither accepting nor declining the proffered honor," but holding himself open to the demand of his party? At the same time we think that Governor Tilden made a mistake. He should have immediately taken another glass of champagne and nominated Mr. Bryant for the Presidency; for we are now in the time when honor is paid to age. In Philadelphia Mr. Binney, at ninety-five, is a leading, active spirit in public affairs. Henry C. Carey, at eighty-five, directs the politics of Pennsylvania. In New York Thurlow Weed, at seventy-eight, is the most vigilant and efficient politician of the State. Governor Dix, who served in the war of 1812, has only just retired from one office and is believed by his friends to be in training for another and a higher candidacy. In Baltimore Reverdy Johnson is the leader of the Bar, while in Washington Judge Black is a brilliant and active political writer. The leader of the Senate is Mr. Cameron, who is a younger man at seventy-seven than two-thirds of his colleagues. And so we might continue this list, citing Governor Tilden himself, already advanced in years, to show that we are beginning to pay due respect to the wisdom and experience of age.

This being the case, what more natural than that Governor Tilden should nominate Mr. Bryant to the Presidency? Mr. Bryant has only just celebrated his eightieth birthday, but this by no means proves that he is an old man. In fact, we know few younger men in public life. Few men, indeed, would be willing to stand the perils of a journey in mid-winter to encounter the combined honor of two legislative bodies and the overpowering courtesies of the Executive Mansion. Now that Mr. Bryant has proclaimed Governor Tilden as his candidate for President Mr. Tilden should proclaim Mr. Bryant for the same office. There is no reason for narrowing this controversy. New York is ripe in great men. We do not want to go to the Convention carrying one lonely candidate as our choice. Let us have twenty candidates, a hundred if necessary, and let us show the democratic party, when it assembles in convention, what the centennial year of American independence has produced in New York in the way of democratic statesmen.

## RAPID TRANSIT IN THE LEGISLATURE.

Some attention has been called to the bill introduced into the Senate at Albany making provision for rapid transit in the city of New York. We shall be only too glad to approve any measure that looks toward rapid transit. But the bill in question, introduced by Senator Hugh Moore, contains so many mistakes, falls so far short of what is due to the city, and is virtually such a revival of the old Tammany system of legislation, that we trust it will not be passed. In the first place it violates the express provisions of the constitution. In article I, section 18, it is expressly provided that the Legislature shall not pass a local or private bill "granting to any corporation, association or individual the right to lay down railway tracks," or to any private corporation any "exclusive privilege, immunity or franchise whatever." It also forbids the construction of any street railroad, except upon conditions which the bill of Senator Moore does not fulfil. These constitutional restrictions render the bill of the Senator absolutely worthless, and it looks to us like a job of the old Tammany and Tweed school, intended to forbid and not advance rapid transit.

**OUR PRECIOUS POLICE DEPARTMENT,** as will be seen in another part of this paper, has got itself into a scrape, which may cost the Commissioners and Superintendent their offices. Last Friday night three men were arrested on suspicion of being concerned in a robbery of the Adams Express Company. There is a strict provision of law requiring police officers to bring every person they may arrest at once before a Police Court, if there is one in session; and if not (as happens when arrests are made in the night), as soon as the Court opens on the following day. These three prisoners were kept confined in cells for two or three days in the hope of extorting confessions. They were denied intercourse with

their relatives, who were forbidden even to deliver messages from counsel. These flagrant violations of law were perpetrated with the full knowledge and consent of the Police Commissioners. When, at last, the prisoners were brought before a magistrate, one of them was forthwith discharged, as there was no shadow of proof against him. Mr. A. Oakley Hall, their counsel, has presented charges to the Mayor against the Police Commissioners and officers, and has offered his free services in establishing their guilt by proof. It is understood that Mayor Wickham will investigate the charges at an early day. It is high time that the abuse of authority complained of be stopped, and if Mr. Hall's charges are sustained by evidence the Mayor will have an additional reason for reconstructing the Police Board.

## The Comedy of Usurpation.

The progress of usurpation in Spain which began with the accession of Prince Alfonso to the throne continues in interest and variety. The young King is tired of his "military experiences," and, leaving "the command of the armies" to a real general, is on his way to Madrid. Among other duties is that of respect to Espartero, the venerable warrior and statesman, now in retirement at Logroño. The "liberal" of the new government is shown by its decree exiling Señor Zorilla for proposing to form an opposition party. Señor Zorilla is a Spanish statesman and a monarchist, who was Prime Minister under Amadeus when the Italian King abdicated. He has never been a republican, and we do not believe that he is a republican now. He proposed to found a party that would be to the new government what the liberal party is in the House of Commons—a natural proceeding under a "constitutional" government—the form which the King desired when he was "interviewed" by the correspondents in Paris. He has shown the sincerity of his liberalism by banishing from Spain one of its most conspicuous and honored statesmen.

There is one beautiful fact in the career of the young King which has not been properly appreciated. When Isabella left Madrid His Majesty was a lad about ten years old. After the flight the horses and royal equipage and many articles of the royal household were sold, just as M. Thiers disposed of the effects of Napoleon, including the furniture and the contents of the Tuilleries wine cellar. Among other things, a black pony, owned by the young Prince, was sold to a son of General Prim, a lad about the age of His Majesty. The officer who conducted this sale of the pony and other royal possessions—a meritorious man in his way—has since been presented to His Majesty as a candidate for some dignity; but the Prince who rules "by the grace of God" declined to approve the appointment. The officer had "sold the black pony to Johnny Prim," and the King would "never forgive him!"

This is about as much as could be expected from a Prince who leaves his tops and velocipedes to become the ruler of a great country. It is an amusing comment on the whole business of royalty. A criticism of a more bitter character could be made when we note that Germany, Russia and Austria have combined to recognize Alfonso before his recognition by the Cortes. In other words, these great Powers would have nothing to do with the government of Castelar, the Republic, sustained by the vote of the nation, expressing the sovereignty of the people; but they hasten to recognize a usurpation which places upon the throne the half-grown son of a foolish mother, who signifies his accession to power by an act of vengeance upon the official who dared to sell his black pony to "Johnny Prim!"

## PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

There is complaint in France of superabundance of coin in circulation. General William F. Bartlett, of Massachusetts, is staying at the New York Hotel. Twenty-six different kinds of breech-loaders are now in use in European armies. Professor William P. Blake, of New Haven, is residing at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Ex-Governor John T. Hoffman arrived at the Clarendon Hotel last evening from Albany. Mr. Lucius Crocker, United States Vice Consul at Panama, is stopping at the Union Square Hotel. Mr. Frank H. Smith has been recognized as United States Consular Agent at Bocas del Torra. Mayor N. F. Graves and Judge Israel S. Spencer, of Syracuse, are sojourning at the Fifth Avenue Hotel. "An infallible cure for consumption"—That's what a French doctor says of the meal of our Indian corn.

Dr. Rafael Nunez is the favorite candidate of the Coast States of Colombia for the next President of the United States.

Lachaud the younger proposes to prove that dictatorial government is a normal political condition in France.

The exequatur has been conceded to Mr. T. J. Pota as Consular Agent of the United States at Izabal, Guatemala.

Representative Hooper, of Massachusetts, is still critically ill with pneumonia, but it is a more comfortable condition than heretofore.

They have determined by experiments in France that trees are killed with great rapidity by very small portions of common gas escaping from the pipes and affecting the soil.

Hans-einet DeKoven arrived in Chicago from Racine last night, but he declined to state what are his intentions in regard to the acceptance of the position to which he has been elected.

In order to promote relations with the Holy See a Nicaraguan Legation is to be established at Rome. Don José de Marcolista has been named Minister Plenipotentiary of Nicaragua *ad hoc*.

Professor D. C. Gilman, of the University of California, has accepted the Presidency of the Johns Hopkins University, for the establishment of which the late Johns Hopkins, of Baltimore, made a bequest of \$2,000,000.

Paris papers seem to fancy that the railroads running from Spain through France will have to have some extra trains in order to carry all the orders of the Golden Fleece that Alfonso will shortly distribute through Europe.

Mr. Horace White, formerly of the Chicago Tribune, and his bride, formerly Miss Macdonald, sailed for Europe from this city yesterday. Alfred Coles, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, sails also for Europe with his family on Saturday.

The Panama Railroad and the Pacific Mail are again under separate management on the Isthmus. The change took place on February 1. Mr. F. C. White, who arrived from the North, is the new Superintendent, and relieves Mr. D. M. Corwin.

Another old watchman, a Paris actor, bought in a watch shop in Paris, an old watch which attracted his attention as a curiosity, and which proves by the inscription to have been the property of Molière—a gift from his uncle, M. Crepy.

Mr. J. B. Beck, member from Kentucky, fell down last evening on a slippery pavement in Washington and fractured his arm at the right wrist, both bones breaking. He was fortunately near the Ebbitt House, where he lives, and he soon received the attention of a surgeon. This accident will prevent his attendance in the House, perhaps, until near the close of the session.